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Field Notes on Iowa birds, book news, and historical or biographical material pertaining to Iowa ornithology are desired for publication.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



### A BLUEBIRD PERCHED ON A CRESTED FLYCATCHER'S HOME

According to 'Iowa Conservation', in which this photograph appeared many years ago, the owner of the bird had a picked eight bushels of pears from this tree in one season. 'There was not a wormhole in any of them, and the tree had never been sprayed—a convincing testimony to the birds' usefulness.

## THE GLEANERS

By E. D. NAUMAN

When Jean Francois Millet painted his immortal canvas he had in mind, of course, the poor peasants of the world and especially those of Normandy, who eke out their meager existence by gathering up the lost or forgotten heads of grain from the stubble fields after the main harvest has been garnered. But there are vast armies of little gleaners the world over that are equally interesting and instructive yet perhaps were scarcely thought of by the great artist. It is of these that I wish to here briefly speak.

One fine afternoon late in the autumn of 1931 (November 22), I was making a field trip which took me alongside of a large cornfield. That is, it had quite recently been a cornfield, but the farmer had finished gathering in his crop and nothing remained in the field but a few forgotten ears on the otherwise bare and deserted stalks and a small amount of scattered grain on the ground. The day was calm and still. Not a breath of air was moving. But hark! From a distant part of the field came sounds of life. The fluttering of small wings beating against the dry stalks could be faintly heard.

I stood at attention. The sounds came nearer. Soon I saw a flash of red among the gray stalks, then another and another, adding color to the otherwise somber scene. In a few minutes about a dozen Cardinals came into view, all gleaning in the same general direction and cracking some of the corn which had been left upon the ground. It was evident that they were gathering their evening meal, and as I stood "frozen" like a statue, some of the birds passed within a few feet of me without even noticing me.

After these beautiful little creatures had passed on, I walked slowly, meditating about this, to me, new activity of the Cardinal. Soon my ear caught another sound—a rattling rap-tap-tap entirely different from the "hum of industry" of the Cardinals. Upon coming closer I noticed a solitary Downy Woodpecker making this music while in pursuit of his daily bread. He was drilling holes in the corn stalks with his sharp bill. Closer examination as to the reason for his labors showed that the stalk harbored a number of small white grubs which, it appeared, formed an acceptable addition to the bird's diet. I am not prepared to name the species of insect this larva represented or what its life history might be, but it is safe to say that if not checked, it might injure or destroy a most important field crop. Hence in this respect as well as many others, the little Downy is the farmer's benefactor and friend.

Passing on a little farther I again noticed sounds of life among the corn stalks, and due caution this time revealed a flock of Bob-whites, ten in number. They were contentedly talking "quail talk" among themselves and also gleaning some of the corn which the farmer had left, as well as consuming a myriad of weed seeds which had matured among the corn in spite of the farmer's vigilance and labor.

At the farther end of this field a washout extended over one corner in such a way that the farmer had found it impractical to cultivate a small triangular tract. This, together with the environs of the washout, had grown up with a rank growth of weeds of several species. As I approached this wilderness several hundred Tree Sparrows rose into the air like chaff before a gust of wind, uttering their characteristic little lingual lisp or flight song with which they so delight their observers. Among them were also a number of Slate-colored Juncos and Goldfinches. Presently they all alighted again in another part of the tract and proceeded to finish their evening meal of assorted weed seeds.



At this instant a Blue Jay flew over the tract and yelled at the top of his voice, "Thief! Thief!" However, the jay was mistaken, for these little fellows had come all the way from Minnesota and Canada, not to steal but simply to live during the winter months, and incidentally to assist farmers and gardeners of the middle and southern states by destroying thousands of bushels of weed seeds.

There are a number of other species of birds that assist mankind in this way, performing their valuable services so stealthily that in some cases their beneficiaries are not even aware of their presence. Gleaned grains and weed seeds constitute their rather hard and dry winter fare only, for most of these birds have a line of nice juicy bugs and other insects for the main course on their menu for the summer time.

Sigourney, Iowa.

## SUMMER BOB-WHITE OBSERVATIONS IN A CITY BACKYARD

By PAUL L. ERRINGTON

In the four years that the Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus*) has been my professional specialty, I have encountered innumerable instances of coveys wintering around human habitations, and many instances of these birds resident well within the corporate limits or even the downtown districts of large cities. Few times, however, have I known anybody to have had really noteworthy success in attracting and observing wild Bob-whites in city backyards during the entire summer. Hence I have considered it of sufficient general interest to prepare this note on the basis of data supplied by the John E. Stewarts of 1245 Thirty-seventh Street, Des Moines, Iowa. As an occasional guest of the Stewarts I also was able to make some personal observations on their Bob-whites.

The Stewart garden and backyard slopes off sharply to a natural wooded ravine, grown up heavily in places to brush and greater ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) which constitute most of the essential Bob-white cover. From the ravine the birds would come up through the formally tended lawn and garden to feed on grain kept for them behind the house. Frequently they would dust, sun themselves, and loaf in suitable places about the yard where they could be watched for an hour or so each day from one or more of the numerous windows in the Stewart home.

For the sake of convenience we may start our history of this particular Bob-white population at about February, 1932, when there were 10 birds feeding at the house. There were seven (four males, three females) still coming to feed at the beginning of the breeding season. Five birds (three males, two females) were seen frequently in early May; the other two were presumably occupied with nesting duties. Three unmated cocks called "bob-white" in June; two during July; one until the middle of August. It is not necessarily true that all of the calling was done by the cocks of this covey, for quite likely there were other coveys up or down the ravine, the members of which could easily drift into the neighborhood contemporaneous with the mating dispersal. The order in which the cocks ceased calling (signifying death, departure, or the finding of mates), and the order in which the broods of young appeared, are indicative, nevertheless, that we are concerned mainly with birds of the original covey. Without banding data we may not be too positive of such things.

The first young were seen July 5, chicks of 10 days or thereabouts, still small enough to go through the meshes of a sparrow-trap. The date for the laying of the first egg of this clutch could be calculated as

approximately May 8, and the start of incubation as June 1. A male had charge of the brood. By July 21, at least 25 chicks were seen together, and a good count of 27 young and two adult males was obtained July 23. On July 31, I made an accurate count of 27 young of about 70 grams weight (six weeks), plus the two cocks.

One of the young had an appearance of being sick on August 3, and for the next two days the highest counts obtainable were 25 for the whole covey. There was some rainy, cold weather about that time, and on August 10 and 11 unsatisfactory counts of 23 were secured. On the latter date the sun came out, and Mrs. Stewart noticed one youngster swaying about dizzily. She tried to catch it, but it was capable of enough recovery to fly. Later in the day the entire covey was observed huddling in two restless groups. The birds would sit in no definite order and would continually be changing from one group to the other. Amid these active birds was one individual that did very little moving; it seemed much the worse for something or other. There were 21 or 22 on August 13.

A few remarks as to covey organization might give a little insight into the social life of these birds. One of the two cocks would lead and look out for the young; the other acted as a sentinel and would follow or would perch on an elevation. The sentinel was the larger, and he would be the one to drive off an unpopular unmated cock that persistently tried to join the covey. Usually the outsider would run before the attack of the defending cock, but once he was witnessed to stand his ground and fight. On this occasion he was defeated and chased flying through the trees. This extra cock always caused trouble, though no animosity was exhibited toward a mated pair that came regularly to the yard for food.

September 9, 23 birds were seen; at least 22 by September 17. Three adult cocks were now in the covey, so it appears that the extra male may have been tolerated at last. The young were nearly as large as the old ones but were not showing mature plumage. They had become very shy and quiet, and would dash across open spaces with a minimum of exposure. Obviously the moulting period had arrived. Twenty-three were counted on September 22.

The morning of October 8 the Stewart property was the scene of much excitement. Bob-whites were calling at daybreak from many places, and by about 6:35 A. M. they were all over the yard in much larger numbers than had been seen formerly. The disturbance was apparently of the nature of a battle royal, with sexes of the participants showing distinctly. Individuals would run back and forth, pecking at passing birds. Prominent in the melee was an exceptionally large male. The actual fighting continued for twenty minutes or more. Scattered birds were calling in the neighborhood at 10:00 A. M. It seems reasonable that the strife had been occasioned by the trespassing of an outside covey into territory already occupied.

On the same day (October 8) an adult cock, accompanied by a chick three to four weeks old, came into the yard. It may be suspected that the pair nesting far into the summer (last seen September 9) finally achieved a belated and scant measure of success in hatching out young, and the lone, backward offspring was all that remained to show for it. A clutch of eggs laid late in the season is typically small and apt to hatch imperfectly, to say nothing of the increased danger to the chicks from exposure.

So from the four males and three females of the breeding stock, there were by autumn what appeared to be an increase of around 21 young or seven young per pair. Four adult males still lived in the territory, although we cannot be sure that they were the identical ones of the spring. There were no adult females corresponding to the original three.

Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.



## GENERAL NOTES

**The Brewer's Blackbird in Central Iowa.**—On April 20, 1933, while engaged in breaking sod, it was my rare privilege to have a flock of 25 Brewer's Blackbirds keep me company nearly all day. They were busy picking up beetles, grubs, worms, and bugs uncovered by the plow, and at times they would approach within six feet of me as I sat on the plow. As there is some doubt as to the status of the Brewer's Blackbird in Iowa, I will say that I am positive of the identification. The dark iris of the female was distinctly noted, as were the violet reflections on the head and neck of the male. Three different notes or calls were noted. One was a short whistle; another was similar to the wheezy note of the Bronzed Grackle, accompanied by a lifting of the wings and a puffing out of the plumage; there were also three short notes in rapid succession. This is the only time I have observed these birds, although they have perhaps passed by unnoticed. I shall look for them this fall and in the spring of 1934.—HENRY BIRKELAND, Nevada, Story County, Iowa.

**Spring Migration Dates from Sioux City, Iowa.**—Below is listed a series of "earliest" arrival dates for various species. For fall departure dates for the Sioux City region see my list in the December, 1932, issue of 'Iowa Bird Life' (page 52).

## SUMMER RESIDENTS

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe, Apr. 3, 1932     | Short-b. M. Wren, Apr. 30, 1930      |
| Great Blue Heron, Apr. 26, 1932     | Catbird, May 5, 1930                 |
| Am. Bittern, Apr. 18, 1930          | Brown Thrasher, Apr. 24, 1929        |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mar. 8, 1929    | Wood Thrush, May 2, 1930             |
| Broad-winged Hawk, Mar. 27, 1927    | Migr. Shrike, Apr. 7, 1931           |
| Sparrow Hawk, Mar. 18, 1928         | Bell's Vireo, May 11, 1932           |
| Coot, Apr. 3, 1932                  | Red-eyed Vireo, May 5, 1930          |
| Killdeer, Mar. 17, 1930             | Warbling Vireo, Apr. 24, 1930        |
| Spotted Sandpiper, May 2, 1930      | Black and White Warbler, May 6, 1927 |
| Least Tern, May 19, 1929            | Prothonotary Warbler, May 11, 1929   |
| Black Tern, May 11, 1932            | Yellow Warbler, Apr. 30, 1930        |
| Mourning Dove, Apr. 1, 1933         | Ovenbird, May 1, 1928                |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 21, 1932  | Md. Yellowthroat, May 9, 1930        |
| Black-billed Cuckoo, May 22, 1927   | Redstart, May 9, 1930                |
| Burrowing Owl, May 5, 1928          | West. Meadowlark, Mar. 16, 1927      |
| Nighthawk, May 13, 1932             | Y'w-h'd Blackbird, Apr. 13, 1930     |
| Chimney Swift, Apr. 14, 1933        | Red-w'd Blackbird, Mar. 14, 1927     |
| Ruby-th. Hummingbird, May 5, 1928   | Orchard Oriole, May 9, 1930          |
| Kingbird, May 2, 1930               | Baltimore Oriole, Apr. 30, 1933      |
| Ark. Kingbird, May 4, 1932          | Bronzed Grackle, Mar. 12, 1933       |
| Crested Flycatcher, May 5, 1928     | Cowbird, Apr. 1, 1930                |
| Phoebe, Mar. 27, 1927               | Scarlet Tanager, May 11, 1932        |
| Wood Pewee, May 6, 1927             | Rose-br. Grosbeak, May 2, 1930       |
| Tree Swallow, Apr. 17, 1931         | Indigo Bunting, May 9, 1930          |
| Bank Swallow, Apr. 28, 1931         | Dickcissel, May 5, 1928              |
| Rough-winged Swallow, Apr. 17, 1932 | Pine Siskin, Mar. 1, 1929            |
| Barn Swallow, Apr. 24, 1929         | Towhee, Apr. 11, 1930                |
| Purple Martin, Apr. 4, 1930         | Grassh'r Sparrow, Apr. 26, 1932      |
| House Wren, Apr. 24, 1932           | Vesper Sparrow, Apr. 8, 1931         |
| Pr. Marsh Wren, Apr. 28, 1931       | Lark Sparrow, Apr. 25, 1932          |
|                                     | Field Sparrow, Mar. 27, 1927         |
|                                     | Chipping Sparrow, Apr. 3, 1930       |
|                                     | Song Sparrow, Mar. 14, 1929          |

## TRANSIENTS OR MIGRANTS

Eared Grebe, Apr. 3, 1932  
 White Pelican, Mar. 10, 1933  
 Canada Goose, Mar. 12, 1930  
 Lesser Snow Goose, Mar. 12, 1930  
 Blue Goose, Mar. 12, 1930  
 Mallard, Feb. 3, 1931  
 Baldpate, Mar. 18, 1928  
 Pintail, Mar. 12, 1930  
 Green w'g Teal, Mar. 18, 1928  
 Blue-w'g Teal, Mar. 25, 1930  
 Shoveller, Mar. 25, 1930  
 Redhead, Mar. 18, 1928  
 Ring-necked Duck, Mar. 18, 1928  
 Scaup Duck, Mar. 25, 1930  
 Buffle-head, Mar. 25, 1930  
 Ruddy Duck, Apr. 27, 1931  
 Osprey, Apr. 30, 1931  
 Duck Hawk, Feb. 17, 1931  
 Sandhill Crane, Apr. 26, 1928  
 Semip'd Plover, May 2, 1930  
 Solitary Sandpiper, Apr. 28, 1931  
 Willet, Apr. 30, 1931  
 Lesser Yellow-legs, Apr. 3, 1933  
 Pectoral Sandpiper, Apr. 17, 1931  
 White-rump Sandpiper, May 6, 1928  
 Semip'd Sandpiper, Apr. 27, 1931  
 Least Sandpiper, May 2, 1930  
 Stilt Sandpiper, May 11, 1932  
 Hudsonian Godwit, May 13, 1931  
 Wilson's Phalarope, May 2, 1930  
 Herring Gull, Mar. 12, 1930  
 Ring-bill Gull, Mar. 15, 1930  
 Franklin's Gull, Apr. 16, 1928  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher, May 9, 1930  
 Hermit Thrush, Apr. 17, 1929  
 —WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

Olive-backed Thrush, May 6, 1928  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush, May 8, 1929  
 Willow Thrush, May 10, 1933  
 Golden-c'd Kinglet, Apr. 10, 1927  
 Ruby-c'd Kinglet, Apr. 17, 1929  
 Pipit, Apr. 29, 1929  
 Bohemian Waxwing, Mar. 4, 1930  
 Cedar Waxwing, Mar. 19, 1931  
 Yellow-th. Vireo, May 14, 1931  
 Blue-hd. Vireo, May 8, 1929  
 Blue-wd. Warbler, Apr. 30, 1930  
 Tenn. Warbler, May 5, 1930  
 Orange-c'd Warbler, Apr. 26, 1932  
 Nashville Warbler, May 9, 1933  
 Magnolia Warbler, May 9, 1930  
 Cape May Warbler, May 9, 1930  
 Myrtle Warbler, Apr. 14, 1927  
 Black-th. Green Warb., May 12, 1931  
 Black-poll Warbler, May 5, 1930  
 Palm Warbler, Apr. 26, 1932  
 Grinnell's Water-thrush, May 6, 1929  
 Mourning Warbler, May 16, 1929  
 Wilson's Warbler, May 10, 1930  
 Rusty Blackbird, Mar. 25, 1930  
 Brewer's Blackbird, Apr. 3, 1933  
 Purple Finch, May 2, 1930  
 Savannah Sparrow, Apr. 3, 1933  
 Clay-c'd Sparrow, Apr. 24, 1930  
 Harris's Sparrow, Mar. 23, 1929  
 White-cr. Sparrow, May 2, 1930  
 White-th. Sparrow, Apr. 22, 1933  
 Fox Sparrow, Apr. 17, 1932  
 Lincoln's Sparrow, Apr. 24, 1930  
 Swamp Sparrow, Apr. 24, 1931

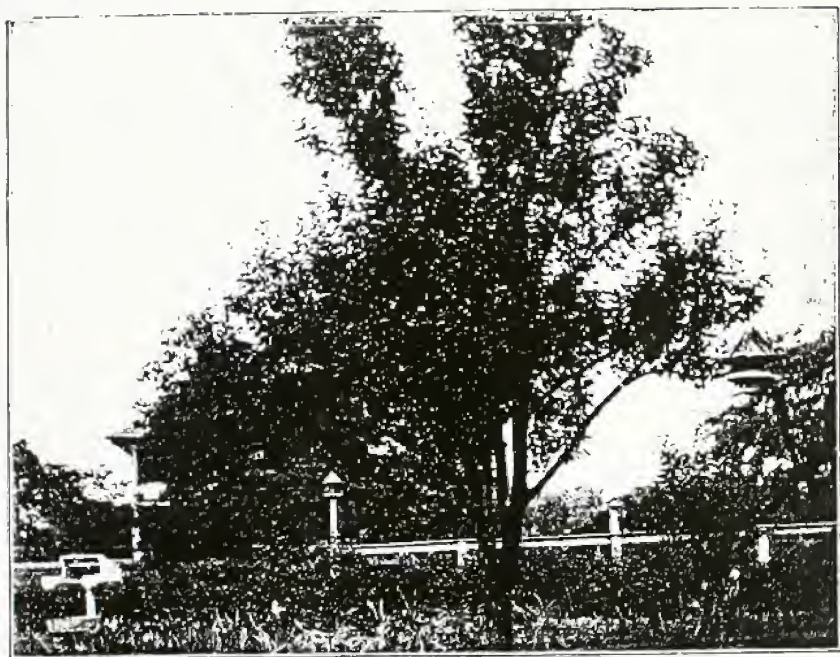
**June Notes.**—On June 13, 1933, we made a short visit to Spirit Lake, Iowa. We counted the Dickcissels along the road part of the way. In 95 consecutive miles we counted 178. We believe that this is a fair estimate of the number one might see over all of the part of the state through which we travelled. While we do not have figures to show it, we believe there are more in the southeastern part of the state than in the northwestern. This may be due to the fact that there is more unplowed land along our road in the southeastern part.

We spent a few hours in the field at the lakes. At Swan Lake near Superior we found a female Double-crested Cormorant seated on what appeared to be a nest. We found a great many Yellow-headed Blackbirds both here and at Little Wall Lake near Jewel. Other interesting finds were a singing Swamp Sparrow, 4 Great Blue Herons, 2 Black-crowned Night Herons, and 2 male Blue-winged Teals. On Spirit Lake we found a male Black-bellied Plover, 2 Bonaparte's Gulls, 18 immature Franklin's Gulls, a large number of immature Black Terns as well as many adults, and 2 Least Terns.

On June 18, 1933, we found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Iowa City. This is our fourth record for the year.—F. L. R. ROBERTS, Iowa City, Iowa.



**A Robin's Nest Used by a Catbird.**—Early this past spring a pair of Robins built a nest in a small boxelder tree and here raised their family. Soon after the young robins had left, a pair of Catbirds took over the nest, and after adding a few strands of grape-vine bark, they were settled in their ready-made home. The nest was about 15 feet from the ground and in such a safe place the Catbirds had little trouble in raising their brood. This is the first time the writer has seen Catbirds take over a Robin's nest, although other species of birds frequently use old Robin nests for nidication.—W.M. YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.



ATTRACTING BIRDS TO A CITY LOT

It takes only a few bird houses, or perhaps a feeding-shelter, to bring many birds to the garden and orchard. The activities of the birds in destroying insect pests, as well as the musical entertainment which they furnish, soon repay the cost of the houses. From 'Iowa Conservation.'

**Museum Acquisitions at the University of Iowa.**—A gift of the Gabrielson collection of birds, numbering 296 specimens, has been received by the Iowa University Museum from the board of the Marshalltown, Iowa, public library. The collection was made by Mr. Ira N. Gabrielson, in Marshall County during 1913 and 1914. He donated it to the Marshalltown library board, and in turn it has given the collection to the museum. The record of most of the birds is contained in a two-part article by Mr. Gabrielson in the 'Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science,' 1918 and 1919, entitled "Birds of Marshall County, Iowa." This paper contains splendid migration data. Another, shorter paper by the same author, entitled "Sandpiper Notes," was contained in the 'Wilson Bulletin,' XXVI, 1914, p. 45. The collection is a valuable record of the bird life from one area in the state. It will be added to the collection of study skins in the museum.

The Museum has recently received an albinistic Red-tailed Hawk. The specimen was collected by Mr. Ed. Dozark, Wyoming, Iowa, during November, 1932. The entire wings, tail, and body are without



markings, and only a remnant of the brown color on the head remains. While the feet were pale straw color, the iris was a normal brown. This specimen has been mounted and is now on display in the case of abnormally plumaged birds. Two more specimens have been brought in to the Museum during January. Mr. W. C. Thietje collected one out of a flock of four seen at Cedar Bluff, Cedar County, Iowa, January 22, 1933. Another was brought in from Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa, January 24, 1933.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Iowa City, Iowa.

**A Night Heron Colony in Black Hawk County.**—During June I visited a nesting colony of Black-crowned Night Herons on a farm owned by Ellis E. Wilson, 2 miles east and about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Waterloo, Iowa. Each spring they nest in a grove of white pines covering about two acres. Upon approaching the grove you hear the loud ticking of the young. There are many quarrels which sound somewhat like domestic chickens quarreling and squawking. The nests are built mostly of sticks and are in the tops of the trees. It was hard to estimate the number of birds in the colony, but there must have been more than 100; one person estimated them at 250 birds. The old herons fly from 5 to 12 miles for food. Sometimes large fish are dropped out of the nest but are not recovered. If a young bird drops to the ground the old ones pay no attention to it, perhaps because the trees are thick and they cannot see below. The herons have been nesting in this location for 20 years or more.—HARVEY L. NICHOLS, Waterloo, Iowa.

**A Night Heron Colony in Fayette County.**—On July 2, 1933, I saw what was evidently a nesting colony of Black-crowned Night Herons. At least a dozen of the birds were seen flying about or perched in a pine grove  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Maynard, on Highway No. 11, Fayette County, Iowa. Doubtless the grove contained many other herons which could not be seen from the highway.—F. J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

**Notes on the Carolina Wren at Sigourney, Iowa.**—The Carolina Wren is an extremely rare bird in this portion of Iowa. Observations made in the vicinity of Sigourney show that one or two of these birds may be seen in an ordinary season, and an extraordinary season (one in ten) may produce a nesting pair. One of these rare seasons came in 1926.

A pair of Carolina Wrens appeared near here in a log yard on April 27, 1926. They scouted around among the logs for several days until their fancy hit upon a certain oak log lying upon the ground. It was 26 inches in diameter and hollow for a short distance at one end. The hole was 5 inches in diameter and 14 inches deep. Thus the lower edge of the entrance was only about 10 inches from the ground. In this exposed cavity the wrens chose to make their nest. This little home lasted until the nest was finished and four eggs were deposited. Then the saw mill outfit appeared on the scene with men, horses and dogs galore. The wrens' nest was soon destroyed, for the dogs dragged it out of the log and swallowed the contents. Later the men sawed the log into boards. The wrens vanished from this scene.

Next year two individuals were seen but once, and in 1928 none at all was seen. On April 12, 1929, another pair appeared near the outskirts of Sigourney, and they came with a view to establishing a home, in which they were successful. In a partially abandoned street stood an old grain separator or threshing machine of large size. It still stands there with all the fans, shakers, riddles, wheels and other contrivances therein. About ten days after their arrival the wrens were carrying sticks, bark, feathers and other nesting material into this labyrinth. I never discovered where or in what part of the old machine their nest was located, but during the next six weeks more

bugs, spiders, grasshoppers and other insects went into this old machine than all the grain for many a day. Soon the proud parents appeared outside the machine with five well-fledged young birds. In another two weeks the young birds had developed so completely that it was only with difficulty that they could be distinguished from their parents. They stayed awhile longer, but in July they disappeared not to return for that season.

Having been quite successful at this place, it was to be expected that at least one or two out of this family of seven would live to return to the old threshing machine the next year. But while a few of these wrens have been seen in this vicinity during migration each year, no pairs have since nested in or near Sigourney. During the spring migration of 1933, but one pair of these wrens were seen and on one day only. And these were far from the old threshing machine.—E. D. NAUMAN, Sigourney, Iowa.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**A Note from Our President.**—Birds are a continual source of pleasure and profit to us in the many ways that are well known to all of us. In a recent southern Iowa county newspaper a farmer correspondent tells us, "A flock of quail is worth more than a team of horses in fighting chinch bugs." The Fish and Game Department, Iowa State College and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in harmonious coöperation are teaching 4-H Club boys and girls in southern Iowa to care for quail on the farms so as to increase their numbers. The County Farm Bureau agents arrange for the meetings and continue the supervision of the quail program. Increased plantings of trees and shrubbery in the gullies of southern Iowa provide more shelter for the Bobwhite Quail and many other birds such as Brown Thrasher, Goldfinch and Junco. You see our united program fits in with reforestation, increased employment, soil conservation and the return of prosperity.

Several members of our Union are taking an active part in the study of the food habits of our hawks and owls. Other members are watching Woodcocks, Upland Plovers and their near relatives which we are particularly desirous of saving. Each of us is keeping an eye open for the Starling and his ways. Are Brewer's Blackbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Prothonotary Warbler and several others increasing their ranges in our state? There are changes in our bird life going on continually. And birds sometimes change their ways of behaving. Bird study is never-ending.—GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON.

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Mrs. C. N. Edge, of the Emergency Conservation Committee of New York City, visited in the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. L. R. Roberts in Iowa City during the latter part of June. Accompanied by her son, she was on her way to the southwestern states and to Mexico, where she passed a part of the summer in visiting various bird sanctuaries in that part of the country.

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Our President, Dr. Hendrickson, spent a portion of the summer in giving bird talks in various parts of the state. Many of these talks were devoted to the Bob-white, in furtherance of the work of the Iowa State Fish and Game Commission, and were addressed to boys' and girls' clubs, Farm Bureau groups, garden clubs, and to other interested organizations. Lantern slides were used in connection with his talks. He spoke in Winthrop on the evening of June 29, to an audience of 125 people. The Editor was present, and he can say that the lecture was very interesting and was very well received.



"Management of the Bobwhite Quail in Iowa" is the title of a new 15-page Iowa State College Extension Bulletin, by Dr. Paul L. Errington, one of our officers. In it Dr. Errington takes up problems of vital importance in the protection and increase of the Bob-white in our state. He addresses his remarks chiefly to farmers, within whose hands rests the fate of the bird to a very great extent. Regardless of the attitude of farmers toward the exotic pheasant, all of them love Bob-white, and they will do what they can to provide shelter and get him through the winters. If this bulletin can be placed in the hands of a large number of farmers, it will be certain to accomplish much in the cause of quail protection.

The farmer has inadvertently destroyed much of the natural cover for game birds in past years. A good deal of the cleared land has been found to be unproductive and subject to devastating erosion. This land should be reforested, and bushy growths should be allowed to come back to all ravines, fence corners and other spots not under crop cultivation. Given an adequate food supply and sufficient cover, the Bob-white should return to its former abundance, as Dr. Errington suggests. Among the matters discussed by the author are the bird's food habits and food requirements, its predatory enemies both bird and mammal, its human enemy in the form of the gunner, climatic and topographic influences, with abundant suggestions as to how the farmer can help. The bulletin is a very readable one and should be read by all farmers and bird students. It is distributed free by Iowa State College, Ames.

Dr. Errington came to Iowa last year to take charge of Wild Life Research for Iowa State College. He is an assistant professor in the Zoology Dept. and is technical advisor to the Iowa Fish and Game Commission. He was born in South Dakota in 1902 and spent his early youth there. After several seasons spent as a professional trapper and hunter on the Canadian border, he did his undergraduate work at South Dakota State College and George Washington University. He received his Ph. D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1932. While in Wisconsin he had charge of the cooperative research quail investigations of the University. His two professional specialities are the quail and avian and mammalian predators, studied largely from the ecological standpoint; recently he enlarged his field to include waterfowl, although his work is in the nature of intensive research on specific problems rather than a general survey covering wide areas.



DR. PAUL L. ERRINGTON  
Courtesy of 'American Game.'

**New Iowa Members.**—Fred G. Bliss, Washta; Miss Harriet A. Cunningham, Anamosa; John Ripley Forbes, Iowa City; Mrs. C. T. McKenzie, Fairfield.

The June issue of 'The Oologist' contains a very interesting biography of John Krider, the Philadelphia taxidermist-gunsmith-sportsman who made some early ornithological explorations in Iowa and the Middle West. He spent considerable time in the seventies in the vicinity of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, Iowa, and it was here that he secured specimens of the White Redtail or Krider's Hawk, named in his honor by his friend, Bernard A. Hoopes. Krider's book, "Forty Years Notes of a Field Ornithologist," published in 1879, contains references to his Iowa observations.

The American School of Wild Life Protection held its fifteenth annual session at McGregor, July 31 to August 12. This school, which



REV. GEORGE BENNETT

has achieved a national reputation, is unique in the field of education, teaching its students from first hand observation, under the guidance of eminent naturalists, in a schoolroom as big as the outdoors itself. It is the first of its kind and is an Iowa institution principally because of the persistent efforts of one of its founders, the late Rev. George Bennett, a native of England and a retired minister of Iowa City. Rev. Bennett believed that the people needed such a school. His ambitions were realized in 1919, when the school was established; it has made substantial growth through the years. Rev. Bennett was an active and enthusiastic member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

Nearly every year the bird work of the Wild Life School has been under the direction of representatives of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, a significant

fact. This year is was directed by Walter M. Rosene and Philip A. DuMont.

It is rumored that an attempt will be made in Iowa in the near future to remove protection from the Mourning Dove and establish an open shooting season on the bird. In view of the State's extensive work with the quail and pheasant, it is to be taken for granted that these birds will be hunted in the future; but there would seem to be no valid excuse for making the Mourning Dove a game bird. The bird is gentle, well-loved by country and city dweller alike, while its seed-eating habits make it a valuable ally of agriculture. We should be watchful, and ready to come to the dove's defense if it becomes necessary.

The Indiana Audubon Society has issued its 1933 Yearbook, an attractive, well-printed book of 108 pages, filled with interesting articles on Indiana birds. It is sold for \$1 a copy. Orders should be sent to Miss Margaret R. Knox, 4030 Park Ave., Indianapolis.